

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS SHEILA KUEHL AND  
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**Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing in Los Angeles County**

Six days after the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Fair Housing Act. April 11, 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. Originally included in the Civil Rights legislation advocated for by Dr. King six years earlier, the Fair Housing Act would turn out to be the most controversial aspect of the civil rights package and was stripped from the package. The language was brought back in a senate bill authored by Senators Brooke and Mondale that failed for two years in the Senate and only passed on its third time through the Senate after compelling testimony from Carlos Campbell, an African-American navy veteran who shared his experience of serving his country and then being turned away by over 40 landlords. The bill would have faced further opposition in the House, but in the wake of Dr. King’s assassination and riots across the country the House passed the bill in hopes of quelling the civil unrest.

Despite its passage, the law was never embraced by the federal government.

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While the goal of ending housing discrimination based on race, color, religion or national origin, and later disability and age, was vaguely accepted the most important provision of the law that required actively creating integrated communities was resisted.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary George Romney was asked to leave HUD in 1972 by President Richard Nixon for trying to implement the provision of the law that required communities to “affirmatively further” fair housing. It took 47 years for the Supreme Court to confirm that the federal government was required to ensure that jurisdictions receiving federal funding are required under the law to affirmatively further fair housing by using federal funding to help create integrated communities in the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs versus Inclusive Communities Project decision in 2015. In response to that Supreme Court decision President Obama instructed HUD to draft federal guidelines known as the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing final rule. That rule required communities to develop plans for affirmatively furthering fair housing. In January of this year the Trump administration suspended the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing final rule.

During the three years between the introduction of the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing final rule under President Obama and the rule’s suspension under President Trump Los Angeles County developed a plan for affirmatively furthering fair housing in our region. While HUD will not review the plan under the rule’s suspension that should not stop the County from embracing our responsibility under the Fair Housing Act to affirmatively further fair housing. In fact, the County should embrace the 50th anniversary of this historic federal civil rights legislation and go beyond what is legally required by federal law and federal resources and explore all avenues available

to the County to create inclusive and integrated communities.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Community Development Commission to report back to the Board in 90 days with recommendations and any funding needed to develop a robust plan to affirmatively further fair housing in the County including the full range of County resources and tools available to the County and models from other jurisdictions that could be adopted in Los Angeles.

S: MR/Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing in Los Angeles County